

SUBJECT: First Reading: Certification Fee Increase **24:15:03:05. Fee for a South Dakota certificate**

BACKGROUND: Fees for certificates are put into the “Institute Fund”. The uses of these funds are delineated in statute, to include expenses for Professional Practices as well as activities related to accreditation. The increase in fees will be used to support salaries and related accreditation requirements in the Office of Accreditation and Teacher Quality.

The fees in South Dakota are among the lowest in the nation and have not been increased in many years.

13-42-5.1. Use of institute funds--Vouchers and warrants. The state institute fund, formerly provided for by § 13-42-5, shall be used for the purpose of writing and publishing bulletins, accreditation rules, and materials essential to the school systems of this state, and to support activities related to school accreditation and teacher training and retention, and as otherwise may be provided by law; and the state institute fund is hereby appropriated for such purposes and shall be paid out upon warrants drawn by the state auditor on duly itemized vouchers approved by the secretary of the Department of Education.

13-43-23. Administrative expenses of Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission. Any expense incurred by the Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission in administering the provisions of §§ 13-43-16 to 13-43-30, inclusive, shall be paid from the state institute fund. However, such annual expenses shall be limited to an amount not to exceed two-thirds of the annual amount collected for teacher certification fees.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Move the Certification Fee Increase **24:15:03:05. Fee for a South Dakota certificate to a public hearing at the March board meeting.**